

Warren County Cancer Capacity and Needs Assessment Report Summary

Fact Sheet

The Office of Cancer Control and Prevention of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, in conjunction with a mandate from the Governor's Task Force on Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment in New Jersey and in collaboration with the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health of the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, has developed comprehensive cancer capacity and needs assessment reports for each county in the state. These reports are a result of initial implementation steps of the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (NJ-CCCP).

The purpose of the reports is to identify the major cancer issues affecting each county and the county's available resources for cancer prevention, screening, and treatment, as well as to offer recommendations for improvement. Each report was written by county evaluators from a county-level point of view.

County Demographic Profile

- **2000 Population: 102,437**
- **Median Age: 37.6**
- **Racial Composition:**
 - **95% White**
 - **2% Black**
 - **1% Asian**
- **Ethnic Composition:**
 - **4% Hispanic**
- **Median Household Income: \$56,100**
- **% of residents ≥ 25 years of age without high school diploma: 15%**
- **% of families living below the poverty level: 3.6%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 623.8 men and 475.7 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Warren County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual death rate was 234.3 for men, and 166.7 for women in Warren County, compared to the state rate of 261.1 for men and 181.6 for women. As in the state, the types of cancers which affect the most people in Warren County are prostate, breast, lung, and colorectal.

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.

Overarching Issues

- **Access and Resources:** The county's two hospitals are located at opposite ends of the county (Warren Hospital in the southwest; Hackettstown Regional Med. Center in the northeast). Cancer outreach education and screening efforts have been less accessible for residents living in the central region and municipalities that do not have easy access to the hospitals.
- **School Health Education:** Most public schools are lacking a formal health education coordinator and have not participated in county-wide cancer coalition efforts. Few schools have developed partnerships with hospitals or staff with cancer expertise in the county to assure adequacy of cancer education.
- **Providers and Treatment:** Cancer treatment providers and programs are located in the southwest (Warren Hospital) and northeast (Hackettstown Regional Medical Center) which are not easily accessible to high-risk populations living in the central region and remote areas within the county.
- **Advocacy:** There are few broad based cancer-related advocacy efforts in Warren County.
- **Palliative Care:** While hospice services are available, there are no palliative care programs and limited support services specific to Warren County. Few, specialize in childhood cancers.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** There are programs focusing on nutrition, however, few agencies or programs in Warren County focus on improving physical activity among residents.
- **Childhood Cancer:** There are no services that specialize in childhood cancers within Warren County.

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Warren County & New Jersey

1996-2000 Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence & Mortality Rates by Site

All Cancers	Incidence Rate ¹		Mortality Rate ²	
	Warren County	NJ	Warren County	NJ
Male	623.8	628.7	234.3	261.1
Female	475.7	453.7	166.7	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	146.8	138.5	26.2	31.3
Cervical, female	10.1	10.9	2.5	3.1
Colorectal, male	79.0	79.0	21.3	29.5
Colorectal, female	59.9	54.4	16.7	20.1
Lung, male	91.7	92.5	62.8	74.8
Lung, female	56.3	55.4	39.6	41.6
Melanoma, male	26.4	20.1	5.6	4.4
Melanoma, female	15.2	11.9	1.5	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	12.9	15.7	2.2	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	6.7	6.4	1.5	1.6
Prostate, male	164.2	194.3	29.8	32.9

Sources: ¹ New Jersey State Cancer Registry, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, August 2003

² National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State Cancer Profiles (Accessed at <http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/>)

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.
A rate at least 10% higher than the corresponding state rate is shown in **bold italics**.

County Recommendations

- Expand the role and resources of the Warren County Cancer Coalition to promote early detection to reduce cancer mortality by expanding educational outreach efforts, concentrating on making available low literacy cancer educational materials for those in need. In addition, improve access to cancer education, screening, and treatment services for low-income individuals located in the central region and municipalities that do not have easy access to the hospitals.
- Develop formal partnerships between schools, churches, and worksites with organizations capable of providing cancer education to assure residents are being educated on the importance of cancer prevention and screening, including reducing risk behaviors such as tobacco use.
- Develop a county-based cancer education website that can function as a clearinghouse of information for health and social service staff, schools, churches, worksites and residents of the county.

For More Information

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To access the full Report Summary, visit the website:
www.state.nj.us/health/ccp